

**SECRET**

31 May 1968

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** The Honorable Walt W. Rostow  
Special Assistant to the President  
The White House

**SUBJECT:** North Vietnam Truck Losses

1. Attached is the analysis you requested on truck kills in southern North Vietnam since 31 March 1968. This report is a coordinated joint effort by CIA and DIA and includes agreed CIA/DIA figures. Please note, however, that these figures apply only to truck losses in the southern part of North Vietnam, not losses in the remainder of North Vietnam itself or losses in Laos.

2. As you are aware, both we and DIA are taking a very hard look at total truck losses and their impact on overall DRV capabilities. Both here and at DIA, however, our analysis is running into difficulties. The key problem is that the losses suggested by pilot reports, particularly pilot report-based loss figures for Laos, suggest a drastic decrease in North Vietnam's truck inventory that is simply not supported by other intelligence or by our observations of North Vietnam's logistic operations.

3. (At the DCI's request, we are developing a study that will attempt to resolve the inconsistencies between reported truck kills and other intelligence data on truck activity and supply movements. If we are unable to clarify these issues or sort out the present inconsistencies in various data series, we propose to put our problems on the record, noting the kill figures and our reservations about the uses to which these figures can be legitimately put, particularly in making judgments about overall enemy capabilities.

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[Redacted]  
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

cc: Lt. Gen. Joseph S. Carroll  
Mr. Thomas L. Hughes

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